

## **Potential Press Conference Questions**

- **Legislators had 4 months to address tort reform and didn't. What makes you think a Special Session will be any different?**

There were roughly three thousand bills filed during the Regular Session that lawmakers had to address. A special session is designed to give them the opportunity to focus on just a handful of issues. A special session allows for special attention, and that is why I think we will see action on tort reform and voter ID.

- **Is this really worth \$30,000 a day to taxpayers during a budget crisis?**

The cost of Mississippi's litigious civil justice system is far more than \$30,000 a day. Research has shown that our system of lawsuit abuse costs Mississippi millions in lost jobs, lost retail sales and lost revenue to the state. If we pass tort reform we will look back on this Special Session as a bargain.

- **What about the bond bills that were not passed during the Regular Session? Why aren't they in your call?**

I am committed to seeing Mississippi complete some of the projects in the bond bill which died during the Regular Session. You may see some additional items like those added to the call at a later time.

- **The budget passed by the Legislature for the first time dipped into the principal of the tobacco trust fund. Do you agree with that move and are you planning to sign or veto the budget?**

While some of that fund was used this Session as in previous Sessions, unlike in years past, a plan was put into statute that limits the use of that fund in the future and slowly builds it back up again. I think that was a wise move.

- **Do you have the authority to run DHS by executive order, why isn't it in your Special Session call and what changes are you planning to make in the agency if you do run it by executive order?**

Our attorneys are researching the questions regarding the status of DHS after the Regular Session, but at this point the main thing people need to know is that DHS will

be providing services as it always has and there will be no disruption of that.

- **What do you say to those 24 school district that will be facing cuts due to the recent budget?**

Our Legislature made a prudent decision regarding school funding. There are “rainy day funds” that those schools can tap into to help them avoid cuts. We are seeing teachers being rehired all over the state thanks to the budget that was passed and teachers are the most important part of our system. I do not think Mississippi parents are going to see any adverse affects on the education of their children as a result of the budget the Legislature passed.